**Subsidy on Fertilizers**

1381. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;:

(a) the quantity of Fertilizers produced consumed/imported and exported during the last three years; and

(b) the amount of Central subsidies given to the fertilizer industry in the country during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Details of production, consumption, imports and exports of fertilisers and subsidies on fertilisers during the period from 1988-89 to 1990-91:—

(Quantities in nutrient terms/lakh MTs)

| Year | Production | Imports | Consumption | Subsidies (Rs. in crores) | Exports |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1988-89 . . . . | 89·64 | 16·08 | 110·40 | 3200·70 | Nil |
| 1989-90 . . . . | 85·43 | 31·14 | 115·68 | 4542·10 | Nil |
| 1990-91 . . . . | 90·45 | 27·58 | 125·76* | 4389·32 | 0·156** |

*Estimated figures.

**Represents 10,000 Mts of DAP and 20,000 MTs of Urea exported to Nepal.

**Prices of Seeds**

1382. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the present prices offered by the Agricultural Seed Corporation is not remunerative for production of quality seeds; and

(b) whether Government propose to enhance the prices to be paid for the seeds purchased by the Seed Corportion of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Procurement prices on seeds to the contract growers are fixed keeping in view the prices fixed by the State Seeds Corporations and the prevailing grain prices in the local Agricultural market/ mandies.

**Salinity in Indo-Gangetic Planes**

1383. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land salinity in the Indo-Gangetic planes has been increasing

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to tackle the problem and increase fertility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major reasons for the development of soil salinity in Indo-Gangetic planes are drainage congestion improper wateruse, presence of hard pan in the upper soil layers, topographical reasons, etc.